



Money

TAKING CARE OF YOUR FAMILY

LOVE your family? Then build an estate plan so your relatives get as much of your assets as possible upon your death. Estate planning ensures that your belongings go to your chosen beneficiaries with the lowest deducted taxes and administrative expenses.

The Army's Estate Planning Tool Kit explains such basic concepts as wills, trusts, advance medical directives, organ donations and funeral planning.

Will preparation is often a last-minute effort for deploying soldiers. According to COL George Hancock, chief of the Army Legal Assistance Policy Division, wills should be regarded as one of the most important documents soldiers and their families will ever prepare.

"While it is easy to postpone developing a plan, delay risks that property does not go where intended, fails to save money that could have been saved for survivors, and may frustrate survivors while they straighten out matters after you die," he said.

A properly executed will leaves instructions about intended property distribution. A will is especially important for parents with young children who should name a guardian (and preferably a backup) for their children in case the other natural parent also dies while the children are minors.

History

PRESERVING VETERANS' PASTS

THERE are 19 million war veterans in the United States today — 1,500 of whom die each day. To honor their service and preserve their pasts, Congress created the Veterans History Project. The project calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect and preserve letters, diaries, maps, photos, and audio- and video-taped oral histories.

The experiences of both service members and civilians are welcome, and the project covers World Wars I and II, as well as the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.



To participate in the project log onto the Library of Congress:
www.loc.gov/folklife/vets



Download the kit:
www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal

Career

HELMETS TO HARDHATS



THE construction industry needs 1.6 million new workers in the next five years, according to industry experts. "Helmets to Hardhats" is a Congressionally funded organization that leads service members to America's best building and construction-industry jobs.

If military experience equips you with the skills to be considered an expert in a construction trade, Helmets to Hardhats can increase your chances of securing a high-level job in the construction industry. The organization also offers no-cost training, during which participants earn a paycheck and benefits.



Get benefit and opportunity information:
www.helmetstohardhats.org



Politics

WRITING ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAKE up your issues with an elected official. A link to the president, vice president, congressmen and senators is located at www.congress.org. The site also allows viewers to post their letters online and offers tips for writing elected officials.

Personals

PEOPLE SEARCH

LOOKING for an old friend? Military.com offers a free buddy finder that enables users to search more than 10 million records. Users can also post a missing buddy message, conduct unit searches and search for unit reunions.



Search for old friend:
www.military.com

Family

OPERATION UPLINK

SPONSORED by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Operation Uplink helps keep soldiers and families in touch by providing free phone cards.



To make a donation, log
onto: www.operationuplink.org

